

**City of Wichita  
City Council Meeting  
January 19, 2016**

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**SUBJECT:** Water Conservation - 2016 Rebate Program (All Districts)

**INITIATED BY:** Department of Public Works & Utilities

**AGENDA:** New Business

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**Recommendation:** Authorize the 2016 Rebate Program.

**Background:** The Water Conservation rebate programs offered by the City of Wichita in 2013, 2014 and 2015 provided incentives to utility customers who installed water efficient devices and appliances. During the three-year program, a total of 4,251 customers participated, with rebates given for 8,187 devices and appliances. However, the 2015 program had a much lower participation rate (2013 – 112 applications per week; 2014 – 101 applications/week; and 2015 – 40 applications per week).

Conserving water is an important component of long-term water supply planning, which has a water conservation goal of 0.35% per year. Along with the conservation goal, a study of landscaping irrigation and water well use within Wichita and opportunities for conservation within the business communities are being prepared. The results of these studies, along with other strategies for water conservation, will be discussed with the City Council in a future workshop presentation.

**Analysis:** The 2016 Rebate Program is one strategy designed to provide drought protection through 2060 and provide a mechanism to help meet the water conservation goal of 0.35% per year. The 2016 Rebate Program is proposed to be initiated before the studies are completed in order to increase participation. This early release will allow the 2016 Rebate Program to be presented at the Wichita Home Show (February 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>) as well as marketed using City 7, the City's website, social media, and news briefings. If authorized, the 2016 Rebate Program will begin February 1, 2016 and will use the 2015 Rebate Program rules with updated lists of eligible appliances and devices. Homeowners, renters of single-family homes, owners of multi-family rentals and owners of businesses who are also City of Wichita water customers will qualify as participants. Consistent with the previous years of the program, rebates will be available to people replacing fixtures in existing buildings. Customers will continue to be limited to five rebates annually, and the program will continue until the funding is exhausted. The website, SaveWichitaWater.com, will be updated weekly to show the remaining funds available for rebates.

Item	Rebate Amount
High Efficiency Toilets	\$100
Dual-Flush Kits	Up to \$50
High Efficiency Urinals	\$100
Dishwashers	\$100
Clothes Washers	\$100
Rain Sensor/Shutoffs	\$100
Smart Irrigation Devices	\$100
Rain Barrels	Up to \$75

**Financial Considerations:** A budget of \$100,000 will be reserved within the Water Conservation Program to pay for the 2016 Rebate Program. These funds are available in the 2016 Adopted Budget.

**Legal Considerations:** The Law Department has reviewed and approved this action.

**Recommendations/Actions:** It is recommended that the City Council authorize the 2016 Rebate Program.

**Attachments:** None.